

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *Dodge City Community College*



**Grantee:** Dodge City Community College (DCCC)

**Industry Focus:** Healthcare

**Key Partners:** Workforce Investment Center, the Dodge City/Ford County Economic Development Corporation, United Methodist Mexican American Ministries, Dodge City High School, KU School of Nursing, five hospitals (Hodgeman, Meade, Minneola, Ness City, and Western Plains Regional), six other clinical sites (Alterra Sterling, Family Practice Assoc., Good Samaritan, KS Soldier's Home, Presbyterian Manor of the Plains, Trinity Association), and Dignity Products, Inc.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,926,238

**Leveraged Amount:** \$877,500

**Location of Grant Activities:** Kansas

**Challenge:** The 9 counties in DCCC's service region are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration because of the counties' extreme shortages in health services personnel, the high percentage of low-income, underserved residents, and/or the gap between the demand for services and the counties' capacity to meet that demand. A recent survey of 31 healthcare facilities in DCCC's 9-county region revealed that the industry will need a total of at least 540 health services employees per year, for replacements and for additional new hires, and nearly half reported a need for more bilingual employees.

**Addressing the Challenge:** This project will improve the pipeline to high growth, high demand health service jobs and increase the number of students (particularly Hispanic students) who become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Certified Medical Assistants (CMAs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), and Registered Nurses (RNs), while also fulfilling the growing need for qualified bilingual healthcare workers. DCCC's capacity will improve through:

- Implementing a summer Future Nurses Academy, designed to educate potential students about the opportunities and educational requirements associated with healthcare jobs and increase the number of bilingual Nursing enrollees;
- Creating a new Nursing Success Center at DCCC, targeted at improving student success and helping students progress up the career ladder;
- Introducing a Distance Learning Program for CNA/CMA students to expand capacity; and
- Initiating an After Hours Program for LPN/RN students, aimed at increasing enrollments and serving the needs of students who have family and/or work responsibilities.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- In the three-year project, the total number of additional health services students participating in training will reach at least 90 for CNAs/CMAs, 80 for LPNs, and 50 for RNs, with at least 85 percent obtaining certification or licensing and employed in their field

